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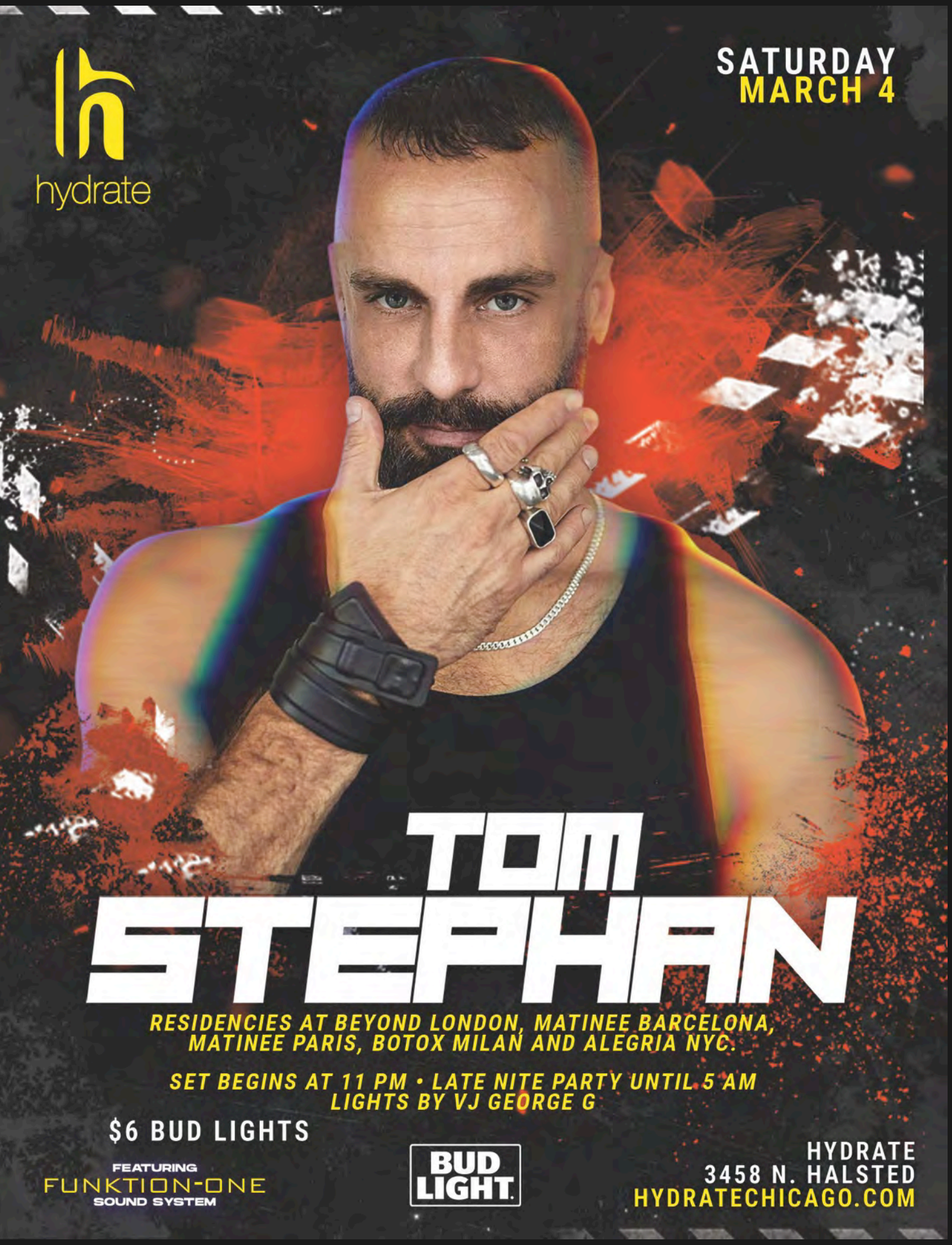
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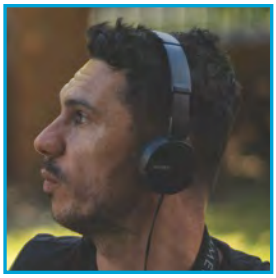

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908-232-2021

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Cover: Model
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Photo Courtesy of
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CHICAGO'S BIWEEKLY LGBTQ PUBLICATION

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GRAB GORAN

"Age" of love: An interview with gay filmmaker Goran Stolevski

By Gregg Shapiro

It's only February, a little early to start compiling a list of the best movies of the year. But don't be surprised if you see writer/director Goran Stolevski's "Of An Age" (Focus) on some of those lists when the time comes. At turns, exhilarating, funny, sexy, touching, and ultimately heartbreaking, "Of An Age" is one of those rare transformative gay coming-of-age stories. The combination of the acting (both Elias Anton as Kol and Thom Green as Adam are exceptional) and the writing and direction are effective. Stolevski was gracious enough to make time for an interview in advance of the movie's opening.

Gregg Shapiro: ***"Of An Age" begins in 1999, seven years after many American audiences learned about Australia's fascination with ballroom dancing competitions in Baz Luhrmann's "Strictly Ballroom." Was this something of which you were aware, or did you also discover it via "Strictly Ballroom?"***

Goran Stolevski: I moved to Australia in 1997. "Strictly Ballroom," unfortunately, wasn't that much of an event in Eastern Europe where I grew up. The way I discovered Australia was through one of our other gayest films, which was "Muriel's Wedding," which is a masterpiece. With Baz Luhrmann, my induction was through "Moulin Rouge" and "Romeo + Juliet." I came to "Strictly Ballroom" afterward, during my film nerd days. I had a complicated relationship with Australia, probably still do, in the sense that I was a very unwilling child of migrants. My film nerdness is a reaction to being moved to this other place where I didn't want to be. I was always looking to be transported elsewhere, through books, and especially movies. Apart from Baz Luhrmann, and maybe Jane Campion, I pretty much resisted watching Australian films for many years. I think I'm the last gay guy to ever watch "Priscilla, Queen of the Desert," which I saw maybe five years ago. I fucking love it, now [laughs]!

GS: Why did you wait so long?

GS: It's difficult to describe to someone who hasn't been emotionally dislocated from where they lived. I wanted to be in Europe. I wanted to be in America, weirdly, considering I'd never been to America when I was little. Or where (filmmaker) Wong Kar-wai was, because that's where I wanted to live at the time. That's what shaped my childhood. In terms of ballroom, in high school I didn't know any other gay people. But an acquaintance at the time, when I came out, she told me "Oh, it's totally fine! I know a gay guy. He's my ballroom dance partner." Although I never met him. But he was the only gay person I knew of that was within several degrees of me.

GS: "1999" is the title of the first of two sections of "Of An Age," with the second being 2010. What is the significance of those years?

GS: Initially, I envisioned the "1999" section as the whole film. It was only while I was writing it that I got fascinated by what would these

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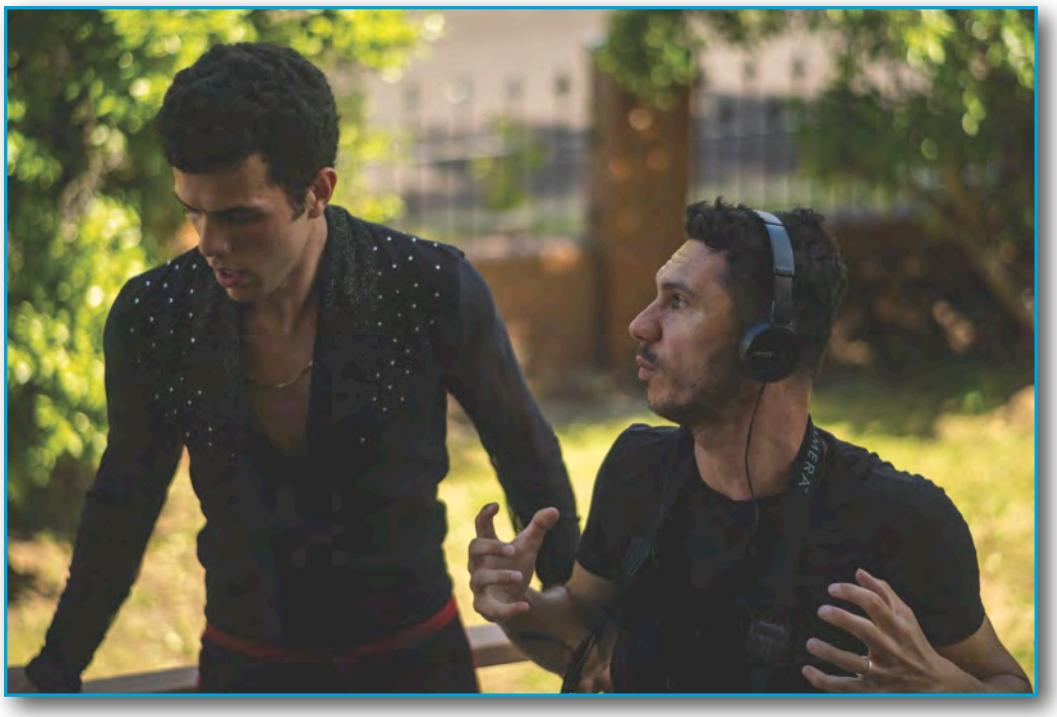
two… obviously the story has a lot of parallels to (Richard) Linklater's "Before" trilogy, and also I grew up obsessed with Truffaut's (character) Antoine Doinel. I'm always curious if you revisit characters 10 years later and 10 years later than that, what happens, and how it comments on the story. Initially, I was going to do something set across a 24-hour period. Then I realized there wouldn't be enough for a whole movie. Dancing in the back of my head were these ideas of how they met, how they would run into each other 10 years later. I knew there would have to be a specific cataclysmic event that had to bring them together. Then I remembered the Icelandic volcano being quite a news story in my life back in the day [laughs].



GS: The "1999" section launches like a rocket ship taking off at full-throttle, beginning with Ebony's (Hattie Hook) panicked phone call to Kol, who then has to find a solution to the situation. It's the kind of thing that gets viewers' adrenalin pumping. Was that your intention?

GS: A little bit. I've done a few short films in that style. I do find it thrilling as a viewer, and as a filmmaker. In this case, it was also how being a teenager felt to me [laughs]. Parts of my brain have outgrown others, but there are parts of me that still function like a teenager. It captures that part of my life. Pretty much the style that evolved in this film at every point is keeping track of the characters' feelings. That's what directed it. Then, obviously, a shift in style and energy happens, and we are keeping in lockstep with this character. How those elements interact is its own thing. I was a little bit worried about whether people would stay for the ride when that shift occurs [laughs]. That was my main concern before the film was edited. I wanted that feeling of being caught

completely off guard. It's a blip in the universe. Those first 18 minutes feel like day-to-day life, and then suddenly something veers off in another direction, and life feels completely different.

GS: I'm glad you mentioned the shifts because that section feels very serious, and then suddenly there's really wonderful humor when Kol shows up at Tari's and Jaya refers to him as "this gay kid" and the humor hits a high point when Kol's in the car with Adam and there's sexual tension, flirtation, and teasing, along with humor. But it also feels authentic. This made me wonder how much of you, and your experience, is in these characters?

GS: In terms of personality, 100 percent [laughs]. In terms of incidents, it's not autobiographical in that sense. God knows I never did ballroom. I don't even dance now. Even the character of Kol. He's Serbian and I'm Macedonian. There are key differences to make sure it's not exactly me. My rule when I'm writing something is just because it happened to you, that doesn't make it interesting. In terms of the humor that you mentioned in that section. I think there are funny things that happen in the opening, but they don't feel funny because to them it's so dramatic. I wanted to honor how they feel in the moment. I've noticed people laugh a little more at the early section on a second viewing because I guess you watch it from more of a distance then. I am thrilled at how much it feels like a tense sequence.

GS: While Adam is driving with Kol, he subtly reveals that he's gay and that he still has some of his ex-boyfriend Goran's belongings in his car. Kol then makes fun of the name Goran, which also happens to be your name. Why did you choose that name for Adam's ex?

GS: At the time, it was because the dialogue was coming at me too fast to keep up. Mine is a foreign name that's really easy to spell and type quickly. I thought I would change it eventually, but I never did, because I found it hilarious. I kind of like being the negative character [laughs]. I have a cameo as an even more negative character in my next film. Actually, (in "Of An Age") I'm also the toxic dude at the airport who bumps into him. I'm much more interested in being the toxic person on screen for some reason. I think it's safer. Otherwise, you become very narcissistic as an artist.

GS: The sexual tension between Kol and Adam eventually reaches its peak and they end up having sex in the station wagon. It's a beautiful and erotic depiction of the first time someone has sex. How challenging is it to write a scene such as that, and not have it come off as cheesy or manipulative?

GS: It's not something I was too worried about. Matthew Chuang is my cinematographer, and my straight husband, and I feel very safe in his hands. He tends to rely on natural lighting, and then when that's not available, he mimics it so closely that don't realize it's not natural. Natural lighting never leads to tawdriness. It helps the film feel tactile without it being tasteless or artificial. Because all of our work is shot according to those principles, I don't think we

approach the sex scene in a different way. With the sex scene, it was all about the actors' comfort, and also trying to convey that feeling of sex for the first time as primally as we possibly can, while everyone's being treated respectfully. You don't have to rely on explicitness or shock tactics.

GS: The second section, which takes place 11 years later in 2010, begins during the "Icelandic volcano apocalypse" (of Eyjafjallajökull), which you mentioned. Kol and Adam bump into each other in the airport; both back in Australia for Ebony's wedding. A comment is made about how Kol's personality hasn't changed much, but a physical transformation has occurred – Kol is now a hot man and carries himself differently.

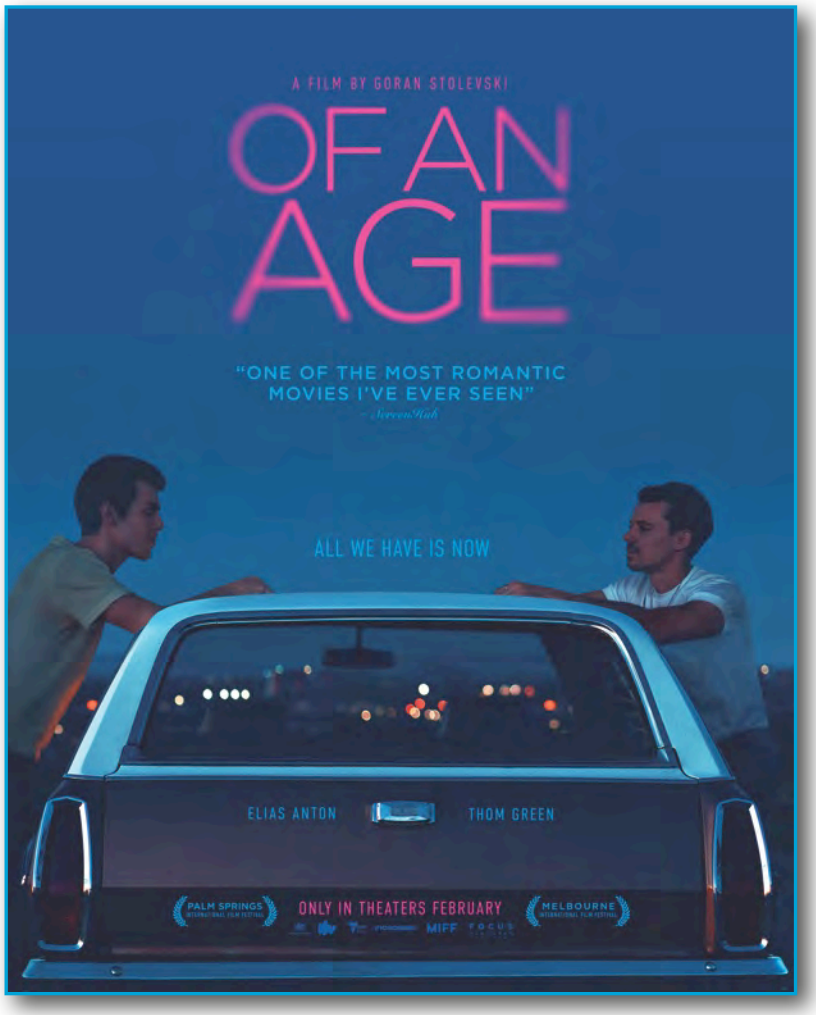
GS: We were all keenly aware on-set of that happening in front of our eyes. In the script, the difference in Kol was mainly about demeanor and personality. I felt like he was more similar to how Adam was when Kol first met him.

GS: He exuded a newfound confidence that Adam had.

GS: Yes! To me, that also shows the impact Adam had on him. It's what life makes of you. You have to build a certain kind of resilience if you're a gay kid from that kind of background, socioeconomically, culturally, and so forth. There was a lot of conversation with Elias, the actor, because he was 23 or 24 at the time we were shooting. It's easy to play someone younger than you, but it's really hard to convey life experience beyond your own actual years.

GS: He succeeds.

GS: Thank you! There was a lot of conversation. But, to be honest, it was also kind of uncanny. I *remember tearing up at the most casual dialogue, when they're talking on that bus. I was like, "Oh, my God, it's my boy growing up." There was a parental dynamic with all three of them. Especially with Elias and Hattie, who were younger. You just watch them grow, as well, offscreen. I feel very lucky to have been able to benefit from that. It felt like capturing lightning in a bottle. There was a lot of talk, before we even started shooting anything, about the difference between your mindset and your inner life when you're older, like 28, compared to 17, and so on and so forth. Once we started shooting, I didn't want to talk about things in the abstract. I feel like it's something you have to absorb unconsciously, and then you're acting from an organic place.*



GS: Without giving too much away, the finale falls into the tearjerker category, and yet, it's not a tragedy. Is this how you always envisioned the story ending?

GS: *Yes. I think there's a parallel between how the 1999 and 2010 sections end. It's been interesting because people have slightly different interpretations about the ending. For me, emotionally, the whole premise of the film is, "Were these feelings worth it?" I don't think it's a standard happy or sad ending.*

GS: Have you started working on or thinking about your next film project?

GS: *I just finished editing my third picture. We're in sound mix at the moment. That should be finished in the next couple of months, hopefully. After that, I'm a free agent, so I don't know what happens with my life [laughs]. I was in a very strange position; before I finished my first feature, the next two were already financed. I've been shooting them back to back to back. I finish one on Wednesday and start casting the next one on Thursday. It's been a frantic and emotionally rewarding couple of years. I'm very lucky to have had three extremely beautiful experiences with each of these films. Films that I love. I'm looking for that again. I don't really want to make something that doesn't make me feel this way. I don't know what it's going to take for the fourth one.*

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This is only a brief summary of important information about DOVATO and does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your condition and treatment.

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- **Resistant HBV.** Your healthcare provider will test you for HBV infection before you start treatment with DOVATO. If you have HIV-1 and hepatitis B, the HBV can change (mutate) during your treatment with DOVATO and become harder to treat (resistant). It is not known if DOVATO is safe and effective in people who have HIV-1 and HBV infection.
- **Worsening of HBV infection.** If you have HBV infection and take DOVATO, your HBV may get worse (flare-up) if you stop taking DOVATO. A "flare-up" is when your HBV infection suddenly returns in a worse way than before.
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For more information about side effects, see "What are possible side effects of DOVATO?"

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DOVATO is a prescription medicine that is used without other HIV-1 medicines to treat human immunodeficiency virus-1 (HIV-1) infection in adults: who have not received HIV-1 medicines in the past, or to replace their current HIV-1 medicines when their healthcare provider determines that they meet certain requirements. HIV-1 is the virus that causes Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). It is not known if DOVATO is safe and effective in children.

Please see additional Important Facts About DOVATO on the following page.

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Important Facts About DOVATO (cont'd)

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  - If you can become pregnant, your healthcare provider may perform a pregnancy test before you start treatment with DOVATO.
  - If you can become pregnant, you and your healthcare provider should talk about the use of effective birth control (contraception) during treatment with DOVATO.
  - Tell your healthcare provider right away if you are planning to become pregnant, you become pregnant, or think you may be pregnant during treatment with DOVATO.
- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. **Do not breastfeed if you take DOVATO.**
  - You should not breastfeed if you have HIV-1 because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby.
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  - Talk with your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.

Some medicines interact with DOVATO. Keep a list of your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.

- You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for a list of medicines that interact with DOVATO.
- **Do not start taking a new medicine without telling your healthcare provider.** Your healthcare provider can tell you if it is safe to take DOVATO with other medicines.

What are possible side effects of DOVATO?

DOVATO can cause serious side effects, including:

- See **"What is the most important information I should know about DOVATO?"**

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What are possible side effects of DOVATO? (cont'd)

- **Allergic reactions. Call your healthcare provider right away if you develop a rash with DOVATO. Stop taking DOVATO and get medical help right away if you develop a rash with any of the following signs or symptoms:** fever; generally ill feeling; tiredness; muscle or joint aches; blisters or sores in mouth; blisters or peeling of the skin; redness or swelling of the eyes; swelling of the mouth, face, lips, or tongue; problems breathing.
- **Liver problems. People with a history of hepatitis B or C virus may have an increased risk of developing new or worsening changes in certain liver tests during treatment with DOVATO. Liver problems, including liver failure, have also happened in people without a history of liver disease or other risk factors. Your healthcare provider may do blood tests to check your liver. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following signs or symptoms of liver problems:** your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice); dark or "tea-colored" urine; light-colored stools (bowel movements); nausea or vomiting; loss of appetite; and/or pain, aching, or tenderness on the right side of your stomach area.
- **Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis). Too much lactic acid is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms that could be signs of lactic acidosis:** feel very weak or tired; unusual (not normal) muscle pain; trouble breathing; stomach pain with nausea and vomiting; feel cold, especially in your arms and legs; feel dizzy or lightheaded; and/or a fast or irregular heartbeat.
- **Lactic acidosis can also lead to severe liver problems,** which can lead to death. Your liver may become large (hepatomegaly) and you may develop fat in your liver (steatosis). **Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the signs or symptoms of liver problems which are listed above under "Liver problems."**
- **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or severe liver problems if you are female or very overweight (obese).**
- **Changes in your immune system (Immune Reconstitution Syndrome)** can happen when you start taking HIV-1 medicines. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you start having new symptoms after you start taking DOVATO.
- **The most common side effects of DOVATO include:** headache; nausea; diarrhea; trouble sleeping; tiredness; and anxiety.

These are not all the possible side effects of DOVATO. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Where can I find more information?

- Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist.
- Go to DOVATO.com or call 1-877-844-8872, where you can also get FDA-approved labeling.

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GRAB MADONNA

The Queer Lives She Has Changed

Why Madonna still matters to LGBTQ+ people

Photo By Jean-Baptiste Mondino

By Matthew Rettenmund

On January 17, Madonna announced her first retrospective hits tour, with the first tickets going on sale a whole three hours later. "Take my money!" gays often say when their divas pull up with fresh product. But nobody is happier to take it than Madonna, our favorite '80s capitalist turned '90s kabbalist turned '20s TikTokateur.

For many Madonna fans — we were stans before stans were stans — confirmation of The Celebration Tour represents a long-awaited movement from Madonna toward unapologetically embracing her feel-good musical legacy. It's a huge change for an artist whose concessions on the dance floor have been many, but whose approach to touring has been to focus on what's new and to dole out what's the opposite of new judiciously, even stingily. Sometimes with unexpected bagpipes and guitar riffs.

On her Madame X Tour in 2019, she told one audience her manager wanted her to do more hits, saying this as if he'd suggested she take Guy Ritchie back. But while icy in her convictions, Madonna is a sucker for timing, and in the 40th year since the release of her self-titled debut album, a victory lap must have struck her as not just potentially lucrative, but an organically good idea.

Is she ready to be a legacy act? The phrase is dismissive, yet their supremacy in arenas means legacy acts are nothing if not relevant, even if they are not driving the culture forward.

While ready to acknowledge her legacy, Madonna is still always in that pop cultural driver's seat, and no, you can't take away her license, kids. Her notoriety is evergreen, fueled by her brilliant grasp on how to trigger the world and her disdain for convention. In her tour announcement video — a black-and-white homage to "Truth or Dare" — when participant Eric Andre deems the proceedings "sad and gross," Madonna cheerfully replies, "Sad and gross is very popular right now." She couldn't have come up with a better explanation for how social media works, or a more apt updating of the old adage, "No publicity is bad publicity."

Unlike with other artists, Madonna singing her back catalog is not selling out. Her songs, with very few exceptions, are not guilty pleasures; they're classics that defined (and defied) multiple eras and genres.

Madonna's diehards know what we were doing when she behaved un-"Like a Virgin" on MTV; when she warbled about being great with child on "Papa Don't Preach," giving Tipper Gore hysterical morning sickness; when "Like a Prayer" first blessed the radio; when she rapped (it is a rap) all our favorite movie stars on "Vogue"; when she stepped out onto that balcony to command "Don't Cry for Me Argentina"; when she let loose with that primal scream in "Ray of Light"; when she stalked her catwalk, a Leo in a leotard, to "Hung Up"; and even when she went upside down during "Human Nature" on her Madame X Tour, making it harder to hang your shit on her.

There are examples of divas before Madonna who seemed aware of their LGBTQ+ audience, but Madonna was the first in the trenches with us. Contrary to popular belief, queering her work did not usurp anything. Had she winked at us at arm's length, as many gay-household-name divas have since, her already incredible career would have been all the more monumental. She lost countless fans when she began openly inviting speculation about her sexual orientation over 30 years ago, culminating with her book "Sex." She not only ate with that, she ate ass with that.

Last year, Madonna took part in a silly TikTok video in which she tossed her panties at a wastebasket. The "if I miss, I'm gay" challenge ended with Madonna missing and shrugging — and with everyone missing the point. She wasn't coming out as gay — she was saying, "Think what you want."

If Madonna's gay antics feel tired, instead of dragging her, thank her for that — her goal from the

Photo By Patrick Demarchelier

beginning has been to inform the world, often by tweaking its inhabitants with cheeky scandals, that being gay should be a non-issue.

"I don't think it's relevant," she said in a 1992 interview of gay rumors about herself. "If people say, 'Oh, she sleeps with women,' I don't bother to deny it because I don't think it matters. Who cares?"

Now, unfortunately, some in the LGBTQ+ community are saying, "Who cares?" to Madonna, taking her for granted and even at times trying to erase or demonize her past efforts. This is largely because the culture has become so permissive that concerns about appropriation have taken over, a fight that could distract us from keeping an eye on why drag is suddenly casually being likened to grooming children for sex. And it's a shame Madonna is so frequently rejected, because the path she forged in the very middle of the mainstream helped allow us to be in a place where she could be seen as old hat.

Probably "old" is the operative word there. Madonna, always the kind of girl unembarrassed to say she deserved that "Evita" Oscar (she did) and to call herself a revolutionary (she is) and to sing "You're just jealous 'cause you can't be me" (you are), got away with being aggressively user-unfriendly for over 30 years because she was young, and then looked young. Now that she is older, her sass is less tolerable to a society conditioned to value youth over most things and convention over all. Especially from women. And especially from women past 60.

Maybe that is why Madonna still matters so much to so many. Yes, she is a legacy artist — and what a legacy! What she has accomplished cannot be taken away, cannot be diminished by others or herself, and will never be eclipsed by new artists thanks to her talent and timing.

Photo By Alberto Tolot

But legacy artist or not, she continues to be more of a touchstone than ever by forcing us to confront the fact that aging gracefully is probably a bullshit, paternal, corporate construct, and really isn't very fun. And while it is OK for some artists to go all gray and demure, it should be equally OK, even encouraged, when Madonna vamps like Mae West (another maligned sex bomb with a killer body of work) or swears like a sailor, French kisses Jack Black (as she did in her tour announcement video) or forgets to wear anything but a gap-toothed grin.

I would never argue that Madonna is above criticism. She has said and done dumb things — nobody scrutinized for 40 years, let alone an artist committed to chaos agency, fails to fuck up.

Still, I think queer people who aren't under Madonna's spell should always remember two equally important things: You absolutely don't have to be a fan, and you absolutely don't have to be a hater.

God help me for writing it, but Madonna is a metaphorical load-bearing wall for more people than you know. When you tear her down, we feel it. We know she is not perfect, but she gives us strength, and if we react viscerally to your demolition efforts, it's because we know there are cracks in the wall, but we're so very tired of waking up to the wrecking ball every day.

In response to Madonna's The Celebration Tour confirmation, @heyjaeee wrote on Twitter, "I might actually cry seeing Madonna live and sharing the space with older gay men who grew up with her and who also lived through the AIDS crisis and are still here."

This tweet touched me, even if the "older gay men" part had me contemplating a lower blepharoplasty. Because Madonna was there, and because she made the most of her time there, and because she shows every sign of trying to keep doing so until someone is rolling around on her grave like she did on her mom's in "Truth or Dare," the truth is that Madonna, like all icons, means a lot to so many of us, sometimes for reasons beyond her own doing, sometimes for reasons even she dares not guess.

And when someone gives you joy and strength and inspiration, let alone for 40 years, that is always worth celebrating.

Matthew Rettenmund blogs at ***BoyCulture.com*** *and is the author of the new edition of "Encyclopedia Madonnica." He grew up in Flushing, Michigan, and now lives in NYC.*

Photo By Steven Klein

GRAB A PRINCESS

‘Princess Power’ exec producers Savannah Guthrie and Drew Barrymore on helping kids love who they are

By Chris Azzopardi

Snow White? I don’t know her. These days, the delicate, demure princesses from the earliest days of Disney films are history, replaced by a more socially progressive kind of young lady royalty that puts leadership and skills first, frilly dresses a distant second.

In fact, in “Princess Power,” a new Netflix kids show from executive producers Drew Barrymore and “Today” co-anchor Savannah Guthrie, the show’s theme song says it all — “no matter what we wear, we’re gonna be right there.”

Based on Guthrie’s bestselling book series, “Princesses Wear Pants,” co-written by parent educator and psychologist Allison Oppenheim, the show is full of girl-power positivity for every kind of kid seeking aspirational get-’er-done determination and the power of friend-family. Those messages, along with a valuable one on self-expression, are a part of the queer-inclusive, pro-feminist fabric of the 14-episode series, which follows princesses of four major fruit kingdoms: Kira Kiwi, Beatrice “Bea” Blueberry, Rita Raspberry and Penelope “Penny” Pineapple. They all love and accept each other as they do their part to change the world by helping their fellow “fruitizens.”

And then, of course, there are the gay dads. Voicing Beatrice’s fathers are actor Andrew Rannells (King Barton) and “Queer Eye” style expert Tan France (Sir Benedict). According to their character descriptions, “While King Barton isn’t as much of a daredevil as his husband and daughter, he’s a brilliant pilot and feels as much at home in a biplane as he does in the kitchen, where he’s a master of bold and surprising concoctions. … Princess Bea gets her playful streak from Sir Benedict — he has a similar gleam in his eye and an equal love of adventure.”

“I just think that once we went from book to the show, we were trying to expand the world in every way you can imagine,” Guthrie said on Zoom about the decision to make Bea’s parents a same-sex couple.

The show, she says, is designed for any kid looking to find versions of themselves, or who they want to be, on screen. “You don’t have to see a carbon copy of yourself,” she said. “You just have to see an aspect that you can connect with and that tells you you’re accepted. I think that's really in the DNA of the books and now the shows, and it's so meaningful to us to be able to do that.”

A show where powerful princesses can change the world and break down gender norms fits right within the motivating force behind some of Barrymore’s most popular work, like *“Charlie’s Angels”* and *“Boys on the Side.”* It’s something the actress, who is openly bisexual, is keenly aware of.

“I did grow up on things and characters and humans and themes that made me believe as a young girl that I didn't have to become a boy, or as a young woman trying to make films like ‘Charlie's Angels,’ you don't have to try to be a man or take men down,” she said. “For me, it's like, ‘How do we love everyone and how do we make everybody feel?’”

For Barrymore, she connected to Guthrie’s books just like she has some of her past characters,

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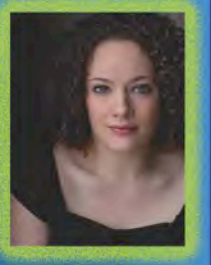

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Courtesy Netflix

including
her streetwise fighter character Dylan Sanders in *"Charlie's Angels."* "There can be things in the creative world and the human realm that just make you feel like you can do it," she said. "These books seem like that to me. This show, I hope, is that for people. Because that is exactly what happened to me in my life through other characters or roles I got to play or stories that I was told. It is who I am today because of it."
Guthrie, who's been the co-anchor of the NBC morning news show "Today" since 2012, felt inspired to become the journalist she is today after watching Katie Couric as a kid, so she gets it.
"I didn't have perfect hair, I didn't look a certain way," she says. "I didn't know that I could make it into this business the way I was. When I saw how Katie did it, I knew that I could. There was a place for me. So even in that little narrow sense, I can't make a comparison, but I do understand the power of example and the power of seeing yourself and believing that if that person can be there, if they can be accepted, then maybe I could be accepted as well."
With recent rhetoric from anti-queer conservatives aimed at LGBTQ+ kids, from "Don't Say Gay" laws to a troubling movement to ban queer-centric books from American libraries, the show — even if it is just a kids show about princesses — conveys a strong, necessary message to those who need to hear it.
"It's simple: You belong. You're here too. We see you," Guthrie said.
"I hope that it's empowering," she continued. "I hope that it feels embracing. I hope that anybody who watches it feels like they're seen, even if it's just one aspect of themselves that they recognize. Even in the silliest way."
"I love a platform like Netflix," Barrymore added. "I love the world you created in the books. There are worlds for everyone that include everyone and trying to speak and reach everyone. [Those are] the things I want to be a part of."
Certainly, when it comes to queer-inclusive kids content on TV, there are more options than ever — options that better reflect people who live in our real world. Those include two other animated Netflix series: "Ridley Scott," featuring Rannells as one of Ridley's dads, and "She-Ra and the Princess of Power," which also casts queer characters as heroes.

Courtesy Netflix

Elsewhere, the animated comedy-horror show *"The Owl House"* on Disney+ stars a bisexual character named Luz Noceda and features a two-dad household and a non-binary character, while Hulu's *"Steven Universe"* has been celebrated as one of the queerest kids shows

on TV. “I feel like there's always more work to be done,” Guthrie said regarding LGBTQ+ representation in kids programming. “You can never rest on your laurels. But I think you also have to acknowledge progress and be grateful for that and keep it going.”

Chris Azzopardi is the Editorial Director of Pride Source Media Group and Q Syndicate, the national LGBTQ+ wire service. He has interviewed a multitude of superstars, including Cher, Meryl Streep, Mariah Carey and Beyoncé. His work has also appeared in The New York Times, Vanity Fair, GQ and Billboard. Reach him via Twitter @chrisazzopardi.

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GRAB DORYIN

Finding Doryin

The Sexy Model Shows off the Latest Gear from Nasty Pig

By Paul Hutnick

Nasty Pig is a New York-based fashion brand known for its bold and edgy designs.

Founded by David Lauterstein and Frederick Kearney in 1994, the brand has established a reputation within the gay and urban hip hop communities for creating unique and stylish clothing that pushes the boundaries of traditional men's fashion.

With their new collection for Spring 2023, Nasty Pig's founders are taking the brand to an even higher level. They are redefining men's fashion by combining high-quality materials with innovative designs that feature bold graphic prints and asymmetrical cuts. Their range of pieces from jackets to shirts, shorts, and accessories, are all comfortable, functional, fashionable and dripping with sex.

We spoke with Nasty Pig's newest model, New York City- based Doryin, who showed off the latest collection.

Paul Hutnick:What led to your career as a fashion model?
Doryin: I've always enjoyed being able to express myself through fashion. As a model,I become a chameleon. I embody the brand. I think it's really fun to explore a persona I may not be in my everyday life.

PH: Shooting for Nasty Pig must be a thrill.
Doryin: I appreciate the brand; their sex positivity and their conscious effort to embrace everyone's sexy side. I highly admire their ethos. Also, the team I work with iseffective, humorous, and respectful.

PH: Do you have a favorite brief from the collection?
Doryin: The sport brief.

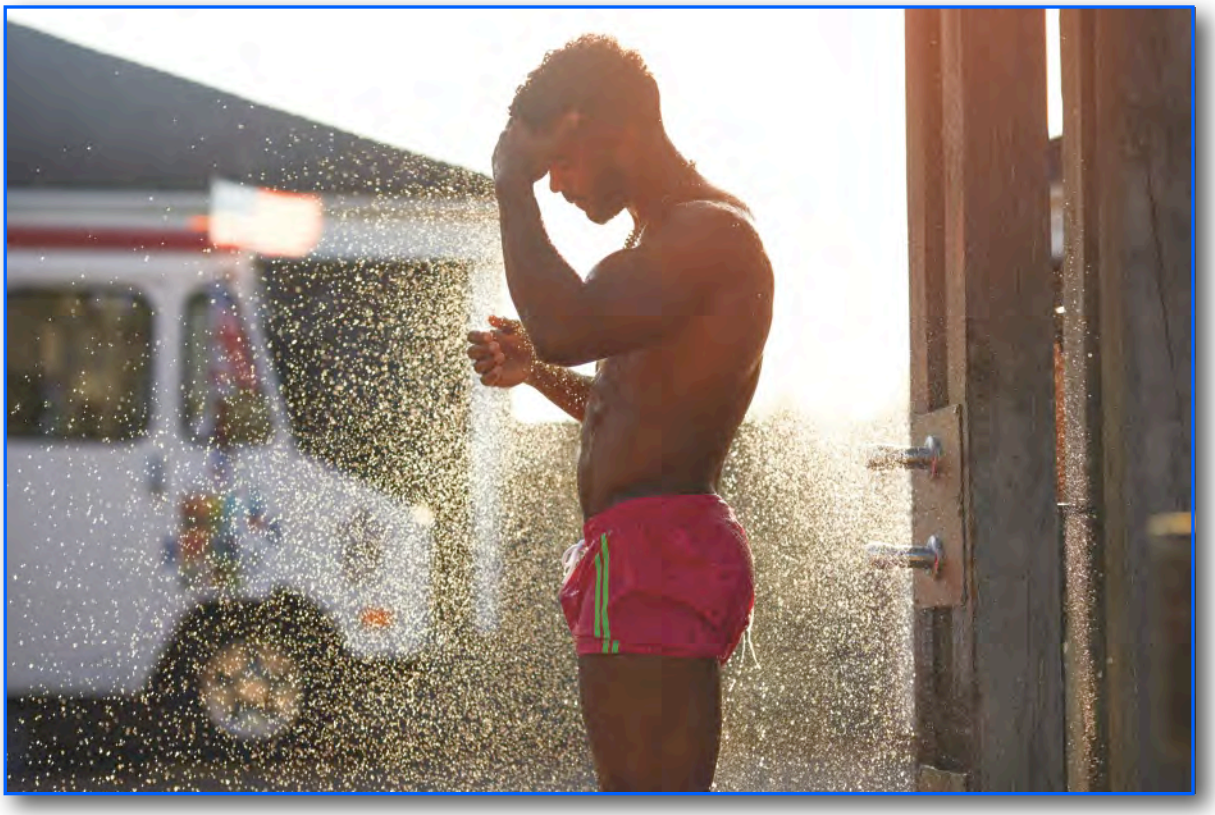
PH: In your everyday life, do you prefer wearing briefs, jocks, or boxers?
Doryin: I am definitely a brief guy, the peach sits well in them.

PH: Do you have a favorite swim suit from the collection?
Doryin: The micro bikini!
PH: Do you generally prefer bikinis or square cut suits?
Doryin: Neither, I prefer a thong.

PH: Where did you grow up?
Doryin: I was born and raised in Northwest Ohio with my mom and two siblings.

PH: Your preference of a thong made me think you maybe grew up in Hawaii or Puerto Rico.
Doryin: I wish! I love beach destinations. I recently traveled to Cabo San Lucas for a shoot and it was heaven. I have always loved

MASTYPIG



nature and traveling. I am also a great dancer!

PH: Were you always so fit?
Doryin: I was an all-season athlete growing up, but I wasn't in the jock crowd. I was more-so a one-man-wolfpack, involved in a lot of friend circles. I was a good student,too. I was one of those who didn't have to try too hard but still got great grades.

PH: Did you go to college?
Doryin: I went to The University of Toledo. My plan was to move to a big city and go into medical device sales.

PH: Lucky for us, you found your way into fashion modeling.
Doryin: The best part of modeling is working with the people behind the camera, andthe quality content that's made when the work is all done. The worst part is how long itcan take to get the perfect shot! It's not as easy as it looks.
PH: How important is it for models to be active on social media?
Doryin: I would say it's very important. Social media is essentially a model's portfolio today. It is important for a model that his or her pages be vibrant and show off their many facets. It helps to build a fan base and that helps to book gigs.

PH: Do you share everything on your socials?
Doryin: I leave out my personal drama and any shenanigans that might occur at any after parties I attend.

PH: How often do you go to the gym?
Doryin: I work out seven days at a time and then take two days off. My favorite bodyparts to work on are my chest and glutes.

PH: What is your idea of perfect happiness?
Doryin: Being in the warmth with my friends and feeling at peace.
PH: What is your greatest fear?
Doryin: Being homeless or losing everything I've worked hard to get.

PH: What is your most treasured possession?
Doryin: A piece of jewelry that was gifted from my boyfriend.

PH: What is the trait you most deplore in others?
Doryin: People who feel that the only way to relate is by bringing up something negative.

PH: Which living person do you most admire?
Doryin: Halle Bailey.

PH: Who is the greatest love of your life?
Doryin: Mi amor.

PH: Do you have a secret talent?
Doryin: I'll have to show you that in person!
PH: What are your thoughts on Black History Month?
Doryin: It is important. In order to progress towards a future of true equality and peace, all Americans of every color and persuasion must recognize and have conversations about the struggles Black people have endured. I believe Black History should be celebrated every day.

View the entire collection at ***NastyPig.com.***

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Jayson has been compensated by ViiV Healthcare.

Important Facts About CABENUVA

This is only a brief summary of important information about CABENUVA and does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your condition and treatment.
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ABOUT CABENUVA

CABENUVA is a complete prescription regimen used to treat HIV-1 infection in adults and adolescents ≥12 years who weigh at least 77 lbs (35 kg) and are replacing their current HIV-1 treatment when their healthcare provider determines that they meet certain requirements.

HIV-1 is the virus that causes Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS).

CABENUVA contains 2 different medicines:

- cabotegravir
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It is not known if CABENUVA is safe and effective in children younger than 12 years of age or weighing less than 77 lbs (35 kg).

DO NOT RECEIVE CABENUVA IF YOU

- have ever had an allergic reaction to cabotegravir or rilpivirine.
- are taking the following medicines:
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  - phenobarbital
  - phenytoin
  - rifabutin
  - rifampin
  - rifapentine
  - dexamethasone (more than a single-dose treatment)
  - St John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*)

BEFORE RECEIVING CABENUVA

Tell your healthcare provider about all your medical conditions, including if you:

- have ever had a skin rash or an allergic reaction to medicines that contain cabotegravir or rilpivirine.
- have ever had liver problems, including hepatitis B or C infection.
- have ever had mental health problems.
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if CABENUVA will harm your unborn baby. CABENUVA can remain in your body for up to 12 months or longer after the last injection.

Please see additional Important Facts About CABENUVA on the following page.

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Important Facts About CABENUVA (cont'd)

BEFORE RECEIVING CABENUVA (cont'd)

Tell your healthcare provider about all your medical conditions, including if you: (cont'd)

- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. **Do not breastfeed if you take CABENUVA.**
  - You should not breastfeed if you have HIV-1 because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby. It is not known if CABENUVA can pass to your baby in your breast milk.
  - Talk with your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby during treatment with CABENUVA.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Some medicines interact with CABENUVA. Keep a list of your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine. You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for a list of medicines that interact with CABENUVA.

Do not start taking a new medicine without telling your healthcare provider. Your healthcare provider can tell you if it is safe to take CABENUVA with other medicines.

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF CABENUVA

CABENUVA may cause serious side effects, including:

- **Allergic reactions.** Call your healthcare provider right away if you develop a rash with CABENUVA. **Stop receiving CABENUVA and get medical help right away if you develop a rash with any of the following signs or symptoms:**
  - fever
  - generally ill feeling
  - tiredness
  - muscle or joint aches
  - trouble breathing
  - blisters or sores in mouth
  - blisters
  - redness or swelling of the eyes
  - swelling of the mouth, face, lips, or tongue
- **Post-injection reactions** have happened within minutes in some people after receiving their rilpivirine injection. Most symptoms resolved within minutes after the injection. Symptoms may include:
  - trouble breathing
  - narrowing of airways
  - stomach cramps
  - sweating
  - numbness of your mouth
  - pain (e.g., back and chest)
  - feeling anxious
  - feeling warm
  - rash
  - feeling light-headed or feeling like you are going to pass out (faint)
  - blood pressure changes

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF CABENUVA (cont'd)

CABENUVA may cause serious side effects, including: (cont'd)

- **Liver problems.** People with a history of hepatitis B or C virus or people who have certain liver function test changes may have an increased risk of developing new or worsening changes in certain liver tests during CABENUVA treatment. Liver problems have also happened in people without history of liver problems or other risk factors. Your healthcare provider may do blood tests to check your liver function. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you develop any of the following signs or symptoms of liver problems:**
  - your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice)
  - dark or "tea-colored" urine
  - light-colored stools (bowel movements)
  - nausea or vomiting
  - loss of appetite
  - pain, aching, or tenderness on the right side of your stomach area
  - itching
- **Depression or mood changes. Call your healthcare provider or get emergency medical help right away if you have any of the following symptoms:**
  - feeling sad or hopeless
  - feeling anxious or restless
  - have thoughts of hurting yourself (suicide) or have tried to hurt yourself

The most common side effects of CABENUVA include:

- pain, tenderness, hardened mass or lump, swelling, redness, itching, bruising, and warmth at the injection site
- fever
- tiredness
- headache
- muscle or bone pain
- nausea
- sleep problems
- dizziness
- rash

These are not all the possible side effects of CABENUVA. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

GET MORE INFORMATION

- Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist.
- Go to CABENUVA.com or call 1-877-844-8872, where you can also get FDA-approved labeling.

March 2022 CBN:4PIL

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2 Bears Tavern Uptown: . $3 House Shots, $7 Big Miller Lite Drafts Everyday Specials: $5Jager, Fireball & Malort $4 Tallboy Beers (BuschLight, PBR, Hamm's), Free Pinball & Darts***.@mosphere:*** $5 Well Cocktails & Draft Beer 6-8pm, Game Night with Tony. ***Cell Block:*** Open 4pm-2am. ***Charlie's:*** Tune Up Tuesday Karaoke 7 – 11PM, Tag Team Tuesdays 11p – 2am, Dancing until close. ***D.S.Tequila Co:*** . 50cent Wing Night 5pm-10pm, Must Purchase a drink for special. Dine in Only. ***Hydrate:*** TatTuesday XXL Doors open at 8pm. ***Jackhammer*** $5 Stoli Cocktails (All Flavors) Everyday Specials: $5 Fireball, Jager & Malort Shots, $4 Tallboy Beers(Busch Light, PBR & Hamm's. ***Kit Kat Lounge:*** Happy Hour 5-7pm $8.95 Martinis ***Lucky Horseshoe:*** Open at 6pm. Dancers at 8pm. Open auditions for male dancers 7pm. $5 drink specials. ***Meeting House Tavern:*** $3 House Shots, $7 Big Miller Lite Drafts. Happy Hour Specials 5pm–8pm: $5 Stoli Mules (all flavors). Everyday Specials $5 Jager, Fireball & Malort. Free Darts & Pool. ***North End:*** Open at 11am, $5 Canned Beers, Seltzers & Ciders. ***Shakers on Clark:*** Trivia Night: $3 Domestic Beers. ***Sidetrack:*** Open at 3pm, Trivia Tuesday 8-10pm, TRL Tuesday: Totally Rad Line-up of 90's-to-Now Music Videos 10pm-2am, OUTspoken LGBTQ+ Storytelling 1st Tuesday of the month from 7-9pm. ***Steamworks:*** Every Tuesday 4 pm – 4 am Guys Under 25 Get In Free* (*Free 30 day membership and free locker). ***The Sofo Tap:*** $5 Amsterdam Cocktails, $5 Tallboys Everyday Specials:,$5Jager, $5 Fireball & Malort, $4 Tall Boy Beers (Busch Light, PBR,Hamm's)Free Darts. ***Touche:***Hardcore Cruisin' No Cell Phones/Wifi.

WEDNESDAY

2 Bears Tavern Uptown: $ New Amsterdam Cocktails $5 Tallboy Beers Specials: Everyday Specials $5 Jager, Fireball & Malort $4 Tallboy Beers (BuschLight, PBR, Hamm's), Free Pinball & Darts. ***Cell Block:*** Open 4pm-2am. ***Charlie's:*** Country Line Dancing 7 – 10pm, Sapphire's Secret Shadows 10pm – 1 am, Dancing until close. ***Jackhammer:*** $5 Whiskeys, Ryes & Bourbons, Everyday Specials: $5 Fireball, Jager & Malort Shots, $4 Tallboy Beers(Busch Light, PBR & Hamm's. ***Kit Kat Lounge:*** Happy Hour 5-7pm $8.95 Martinis ***Lucky Horseshoe:*** Open at 6pm Dancers at 8pm. $5 drink specials. ***Meeting House Tavern:*** $4Miller Lite Drafts, $5 Stolis (All Flavors). Happy Hour Specials 7pm–10pm: $6 Any BIG drafts Everyday Specials $5 Jager, Fireball & Malort. Free Darts & Pool. ***North End:*** Open at 11am $5 Lagunitas Draft & Cans. ***Shakers on Clark***: Karaoke Night $1 Off Long Islands. ***Sidetrack:*** Open at 3pm, All Things Taylor & Ariana 1st Wed of month, All Things Beyoncé 2nd Wed of month, All Things Gaga 3rd Wed of month, All Things Britney & Rihanna last Wed of month: all 9pm-2am. ***Steamworks:*** Bear Hump Every second Wednesday 6-9pm A monthly mid-week gathering of Furry Men. ***The Sofo Tap:*** $3 House Shots, $5 Tito's Cocktails, $7 Big Miller Lite Drafts Everyday Specials: $5 Jager, Fireball & Malort, $4 Tall Boy Beers (Busch Light, PBR,Hamm's)FreeDarts ***Touche:***Jockstrap Night. Free Clothing Check.

THURSDAY

2 Bears Tavern Uptown: $5 Whiskeys, Ryes & Bourbons . Everyday Specials:$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort $4 Tallboy Beers (BuschLight, PBR, Hamm's), Free Pinball & Darts***. @mosphere:*** $5 Well Cocktails & Draft Beer 6-8pm, RuPaul Drag Race All Stars 6 Viewing Party - 7pm. ***Charlie's:*** Survivor 10 pm – 1 am, Dancing Until Close. ***D.S.Tequila Co:*** Bottomless Tacos! $23.95 5pm-10pm , Must purchase a beverage for special. Dine in Only. ***Jackhammer:*** $3 House Shots $5 New Amsterdam Cocktails $5 Miller Lit Tallboys Everyday Specials: $5 Fireball, Jager & Malort Shots, $4 Tallboy Beers(Busch Light, PBR & Hamm's. ***Kit Kat Lounge:*** Happy Hour 5-7pm $8.95 Martinis..***Lucky Horseshoe:*** Open at 6pm. Dancers at 8pm. $5 drink specials. ***Meeting House Tavern:*** $6 Tito Cocktails, Everyday Specials $5 Jager, Fireball & Malort. Free Darts & Pool. ***North End:*** Open at 11am, $5 Deep Eddy Cocktails. ***Shakers on Clark:*** Darts Night $1 off Fireball, Jager, Malort and Well Shots, $2.50 PBR Cans. ***Sidetrack:*** Open at 3pm, Let's Go Thursdays with Alex Kay & Friends 9pm-2am. ***Steamworks:*** Lights Out Thursdays, The Club goes Dark Every Thursday 4pm-4am. ***The Sofo Tap:*** $5 New Amsterdam Cocktails$5 Tallboy Beers Everyday Specials: , $5 Jager, Fireball & Malort, $4 Tall Boy Beers (Busch Light, PBR,Hamm's)Free Darts. ***Touche:*** Throwback Thursdays70's& 80's Music & Porn by BijouVideo.

Daily Specials;

FRIDAY

2 Bears Tavern Uptown: $7.50 Big Miller Lite Drafts$3 House Shots. Happy Hour Specials: 3pm–6pm: $4 New Amsterdam Cocktails $5 Chicago Handshakes. Everyday Specials:$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort $4 Tallboy Beers (BuschLight, PBR, Hamm's), Free Pinball & Darts. ***@mosphere:*** $5 Well Cocktails & Draft Beer 6-8pm, Dancers 10pm-1am. Baton Show Lounge: Doors open at 6pm, Shows at 7:30pm, 9:30pm & 11:30pm. ***Cell Block:*** Open 4pm-2am. ***Charlie's:*** 1st and 3rd Fierce Fridays 10p – 1am, 2nd Fierce Fridays - Traffic Light Party 10p – 1am, 4th Fierce Fridays - Glow Up Party 10p – 1am, 5th Fierce Fridays – Strut 10p – 1am, Dancing until close. ***D.S.Tequila Co:*** TGIFSpecial $5 Effen Cocktails and $4 Hornitos Shots.Hydrate:Fresh Faces A New Drag Competition Second and Forth Friday of the Month. ***Jackhammer:*** $5 Miller Lite Tallboys $8 New Amsterdam & Redbull Happy Hour Specials 5–9pm: $5 Whiskeys, Ryes and Bourbons $5 Chicago Handshake Everyday Specials: $5 Fireball, Jager & Malort Shots, $4 Tallboy Beers(Busch Light, PBR & Hamm's. Kit Kat Lounge: Happy Hour 5-7pm $8.95 Martinis. ***Meeting House Tavern:*** $6 Tito's Cocktails $7.50 Big Miller Lites. Happy Hour Specials.5pm–8pm: $5 Chicago Handshakes. Everyday Specials $5 Jager, Fireball & Malort. Free Darts & Pool. ***North End:*** Open at 11am, $3 Miller Lite Drafts 4-7pm. ***Sidetrack:*** Open at 3pm, TGIF Show Tunes 3-7pm, RuPaul's Drag Race Viewing Party 7-9:30pm, Friday Night Dance Party9:30pm- 2am.***The Sofo Tap:*** $3 House Shots, $7.50 Big Miller Lite Drafts Happy Hour Specials: 3pm–6pm: $4 New Amsterdam Cocktails. Everyday Specials: $5 Jager, Fireball & Malort $4 Tall Boys Beers (Buch Light, PBR, Hamm's), Free Darts.***Touche:*** 3/3 TBA 3/10 Fetish Connection Blue Hanky Party.

SATURDAY

2 Bears Tavern Uptown: $6 Lagunitas IPADrafts. Happy Hour Specials: ½ Off All Drafts $5 New Amsterdam Cocktails. Everyday Specials:$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort $4 Tallboy Beers (BuschLight, PBR, Hamm's), Free Pinball & Darts. ***@mosphere:*** $5 Well Cocktails & Draft Beer 3pm-5pm, Dancers 10pm -1am. ***Baton Show Lounge:*** Doors open at 6pm, Shows at 7:30pm, 9:30pm & 11:30pm. ***Cell Block:*** Open 2pm-3am. ***Charlie's:*** Country Line Dancing 7 – 10pm, The Main Event 10pm – 1am Dancing until Close. ***Jackhammer:*** $3 House Shots $5 New Amsterdam Cocktails $5 Miller Lit Tallboys Happy Hour Specials 5–9pm: $5 Whiskeys, Ryes and Bourbons$5 Chicago HandshakeEveryday Specials: $5 Fireball, Jager & Malort Shots, $4 Tallboy Beers(Busch Light, PBR & Hamm's. Jackhammer: $3 House Shots $5 Miller Lite TallBoys Happy Hour Specials: $5 Whiskeys, Ryes and Bourbons. Everyday Specials: $5 Fireball, Jager & Malort Shots, $4 Tallboy Beers(Busch Light, PBR & Hamm's. ***Lucky Horseshoe:*** Open with dancers at 3pm. $5 drink specials. ***Meeting House Tavern:*** $5 Signature Margaritas Happy Hour Specials.2pm–5pm: $5 New Amsterdam Cocktails $12 Mimosa Carafes, Everyday Specials $5 Jager, Fireball & Malort. Free Darts & Pool. ***North End:*** Open at 11am, $3 Miller Lite Drafts 11am-2pm. ***Sidetrack:*** Open at 1pm, SaturGay Drag & Games with Sasha & Zamora Love 3-6pm, Saturday Night Dance Party 9pm-3am, Dog Day 1st Saturday of the month 1-5pm. ***The Sofo Tap:*** $5 Lost Coast Tangerine Wheat, $5 Signature Margaritas, Happy Hour Specials: 12pm–3pm: ½ Off All Drafts Everyday Specials: $5Jager, Fireball & Malort, $4 Tall Boy Beers (Busch Light, PBR,Hamm's)Free Darts. ***Touche:*** 3/4 Bear Night Bears, Cubs, Otters& More. 3/11 Dungeon Master Night Demo @ Midnight CWB 5-9.

SUNDAY

2 Bears Tavern Uptown: $5 Signature Margaritas, $6 Chicago Handshakes Happy Hour Specials 2pm–5pm $5 New Amsterdam Cocktails Everyday Specials:$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort $4 Tallboy Beers (BuschLight, PBR, Hamm's), Free Pinball & Darts. ***@mosphere:*** $6 Jack Products, $4 Domestic Draft, House Shots $2. ***Baton Show Lounge:*** Doors Open at 11am, Shows at 7:30pm, 9:30pm & 11:30pm. ***Cell Block:*** Open 2pm-2am ***Charlie's:*** Queeriod! Every other Sunday 5pm – 7pm, Singsational Sunday Karaoke 7pm – 11pm Mas Leche 11pm – 1am, Dancing until close. ***D.S.Tequila Co:*** CoyoteUglyDrag Brunch$50all Inclusive food and beverage package plus Drag Show.***Hydrate:*** Doors open at 2pm Northalsted's Official after Brunch party. ***Jackhammer:*** $5 New Amsterdam CoctKails $7 Jackhammered Long Islands Happy Hour Specials :1st Sunday: $7 Planter's Punch2nd Sunday: $5 Dog Bowls (Premium Well) 3rd Sunday: $3 Busch Light, PBR & Hamm's Tallboy Beers4th Sunday: $5 Stoli Cocktails (Any Flavor)5th Sunday: $6 New Amsterdam & Red BullEveryday Specials: $5 Fireball, Jager & Malort Shots, $4 Tallboy Beers(Busch Light, PBR & Hamm's. ***Kit Kat Lounge:*** Divalicious brunch 11am-3pm, Happy Hour 4-7pm $8.95 Martinis .***Lucky Horseshoe:*** Open with dancers at 3pm. $5 drink specials. ***Meeting House Tavern:*** $3 House Shots, $12 Mimosa Carafes. Happy Hour Specials:7pm–10pm: $5 New Amsterdam Cocktails. Everyday Specials $5 Jager, Fireball & Malort. Free Darts & Pool. ***North End:*** Open at 11am, $3 Miller Lite Drafts 7-10pm ***Shakers on Clark***: $1 Off Any Bloody Mary, Milagro Tequila Mixed Drinks, or Tlito's Vodka Mixed Drinks. ***Sidetrack:*** Open at 1pm, Sunday Funday Show Tunes 4-9pm, Sunday Funday After Dark Dance Party 9pm-2am ***The Sofo Tap:*** $6 New Amsterdam Cocktails $7.50 Big Miller Lite Drafts Happy Hour Specials: 12pm–2pm: $3 Miller Lite Drafts 1pm–3pm: $3 House Shots FREE Chicago-style hot-dogs (while supplies last) Everyday Specials $5Jager, Fireball & Malort.$4 Tall Boy Beers (Busch Light, PBR,Hamm's)Free Darts.***Touche:*** Beer Bust $2 Bud Light Drafts, Clubroom Opens 6pm, Movie Night 7pm.

GRAB A HIT

Top 30 Dance Chart this week

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	Artist	Title
1	Oliver Tree & Robin Schulz	Miss You
2	Rasmus Hagen x Alius x Achilles	Be Somebody
3	Linney	Super Human
4	Leftwing Kody & Goodboys	Only You
5	Alok x Ella Eyre x Kenny Dope ft. Never D	Deep Down
6	Kapera	Into The Night ft. Daniel Robinson
7	Tungevaag x Lovespeake	I Knew It Was You
8	Felix Jaehn	Wishlist
9	Tiesto ft. Charli XCX	Hot In It
10	Armin Van Buuren	Roll The Dice ft. Philip Strand (Intro Radio Edit)
11	VIVID & Nazzereene	Secrets (Original Mix)
12	Rip Youth	Pink Lemonade
13	Audien	Drifting Away ft. Joe Jury
14	Duke & Jones x Marlhy	State Of Mind
15	Martin Garrix x DallasK & Sasha Alex Sloan	Loop
16	Becky Hill & Galantis	Run (Galantis & Misha K VIP Mix)
17	Lewis Thompson ft. Clementine Douglas	Enchante
18	Marco Nobel x Glass Keys x Tyler James Bellir	The Fire
19	Leowi	Do You Feel The Same
20	A Trak & Lee Foss ft. Uncle Chucc	Free (Radio Edit)
21	The Magician & The Aston Shuffle	Differences (Original Mix)
22	Lucas & Steve x Yves V	After Midnight ft. Xoro
23	HUMAN x Tudor	Craving You
24	Benny Benassi & Anabel Englund	Lightwaves
25	3LAU	Too Late For Love
26	AWAKEND & CeCe Mix	Feel The Same
27	Armand Van Helden x Karen Harding	Wings (I Won't Let You Down)
28	Ownboss x Sevek	Move Your Body (Amitre Instrumental Remix)
29	Tritonal & Eric Lumiere	Something Beautiful
30	Niko The Kid	Only One ft. MAYLYN

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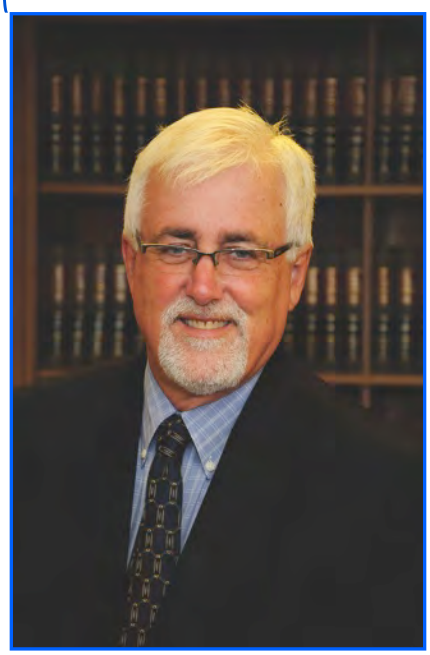
GRAB ROGER

Living Trusts – Protect Your Planning



By Roger V. McCaffre-Boss, Esq.

More and more LGBT couples are using revocable living trusts as a way to efficiently pass on their assets to their partners and spouses and to insure that they will handle their personal affairs if they ever become incapacitated.

A revocable living trust is a legal arrangement where a person executes a written trust document naming themselves as the trustee of their own trust and while alive they transfer their property to their trust so that the trust holds legal title to all their assets.

The document creating the trust allows the person making the trust (maker) to at any time dissolve the trust, change the trust or take assets from the trust; always retaining complete control of their property.

The trust document can provide for the appointment of a successor trustee (surviving LGBT lover/ spouse) who would only act upon the death or disability of the maker of the trust.

A living trust offers the following advantages:

Keeping control. While the maker is alive, he or she has the right to the income generated by the trust and use of the trust property such as the house and furniture. Upon his or her death, the assets of the trust could be distributed to a surviving spouse, lover, family, charities or remain in the trust for the lifetime of the surviving lover and then pass upon his or her death.

Providing for Disability. Should the maker of the trust become physically or mentally incompetent, the living trust can serve as the framework for the management of the maker's assets and property.

Reducing delay and cost. The living trust can act like a will and dispose of the maker's property upon death. The property of the trust is not subject to probate proceedings, thus avoiding court supervision, public examination of the property distribution and will challenges by family members.

Preserving Privacy. Trusts can also serve individuals who don't want an inheritance to be made public. It avoids problems of friends and family from going into the Probate Clerk's office to look at the files on their estate and see who got what.

Avoiding probate. Someone who owned a vacation house in Lakeside, Michigan and a condominium in Chicago could have probate in both those states unless they used a living trust.

Avoidance of family disputes. There is less chance of a lawsuit by family members to contest a living trust than there would be with a will. Probate proceedings for a will require notice to family members along with the publicity which may encourage such suits.

Funding the Living Trust. Many times people will create a living trust but then put nothing in it. The advantage of funding your trust is the avoidance of probate in the event of death or disability and the accompanying probate administration complexities and costs. A partially funded trust will not avoid the necessity of probate because assets not in the trust still need to be probated.

The transfer of property to the trust is like a sale or gift of the asset to another individual. When conveying real property from the settlor to the trustee, or transferring saving accounts from the settlor to the trustee, the transfer is accomplished just as if the property or account were being transferred to a purchaser. With a trust, the purpose is to transfer property owned by the settlor so that it is legally owned by the trust. Ideally, there should be no property owned outright in the name of the settlor. Only property owned outright by an individual (and that does not have a beneficiary designation) is subject to probate administration.

Roger McCaffrey-Boss is a gradute of Hamline University School of Law, St. Paul, Minnesota, and is a member of the Chicago Bar Association. You can email him at ***RVMLawyer@aol.com****. He suggests that you consult your own lawyer for any specific questions regarding the issues raised in this column.*

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GRAB MAGAZINE
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GRAB HOLLY

Rope Burns and Shallow Lacerations

By Holly Maholm

When faced with an apparently insoluble problem that admits of no easy answer, I usually seek a solution in one way: I have sex with Victor. Over time, I have discovered that sex with Victor provides me with much needed clarification, and for three reasons. First, I am left feeling so much serenity, so much calm removed from the anxiety of indecision, that answers soon present themselves. Next, those little post-coital chats which he and I have open doors previously hidden from me. And third, my overwhelming desire to find more ways to please him imbues me with renewed energy to find what was previously "on the tip of my tongue" (or at least "orally available").

In this case, I did not have "ordinary sex" with Victor. (Although, if you have ever had sex with Victor – and there are a "grateful many" who have – you will agree there is little that is "ordinary" about sex with Victor, insomuch as his male appendage is truly "equine" both in size and endurance.) No. In this case, I prevailed upon Victor to play another game of "Mistress Holly and the Disobedient Unicorn." A game in which his "faux disobedience" was met with strict, corrective discipline and pretend punishment meted out by me, transgender Mistress of Red Leather Corsets, Rope Burns, Shallow Lacerations and Long-Lasting Erections. It is a game which no one loses.

Victor and I had reached that point in the game where… the Unicorn having exhausted himself in an effort to prove to his Mistress – more than once – how very sorry he was to have disobeyed her, both Mistress and Unicorn were now to be found floating in that cloud of serenity wherein all Earthly cares melt away, and one's Partner-in-Bliss takes on all the Matchless and Unsurpassed Perfections of a Greek God. (Or, anyway, that's the way it felt to me.)

Not wishing to lose this opportunity to obtain Victor's thoughts upon the problem at hand, I hurried to inquire: "Victor, do you remember what happened yesterday? When I had that confrontation with that weird high school teacher?" I feared I had lost him to la petite mort, but he answered, "Yes, what an annoying person that was! Was she one of those vexatious 'Karens' who are now so prevalent among you humans?" "That's one way of looking at it," I agreed.

I went on. "She's clearly the person behind the complaint a high school girl filed against Dave, the gay science teacher at the school, for his refusal to use the 'they/them' pronouns the girl claims are an essential part of her identity." I paused, giving Victor time to assess the situation, then continued.

"What do you think? Should Dave give in and use her silly pronouns, or should he fight back?" Victor responded, "I do have some thoughts I will be happy to share, Mistress, but first, if it pleases My Mistress, would it be possible for you to loosen the harness across my back? It's really digging in." Mistress Holly was only too happy to accommodate her Unicorn, who was now as obedient as a little lamb (a little lamb trussed up in black leather straps held together with brass rivets.)

"So, let me get this straight," he began. "This student believes herself to be some variety of non-standard gender; and hence, she falls within that group of Ts in your little world of LGBT. But then, she has decided that her unique, invented gender is not something she can simply 'practice' or 'implement' or whatever it is one does with one's gender. No. She has decided that her gender is something that cannot exist without the active support and participation of everyone around her.

"Now, as to you, Mistress Holly," he went on, "though you insist that I – the Unicorn in our little erotic game – must strictly observe all the requirements which you (the Mistress in the game) decide to enforce (and I wouldn't have it any other way!), you do so only in the most loving and caring way. Though you make demands upon me, you do no more than act in accordance with those Rules which you and I discussed and agreed years ago. In short, though you thwack me repeatedly with your riding crop, you do so cheerfully and with lust in your heart, secure in the knowledge that I am ever grateful to play the role of 'thwackee.'

"But in the case of this Karen, it is evident that the demands she makes upon Dave have no basis in any understanding or sympathy between them. To the contrary, instead of sincerely asking Dave for his willing cooperation in her made-up gender, she turns to the use of threats and litigation to try to compel Dave's involuntary participation in her fantasy. That's intolerable!" Victor summed up. "Dave has to fight!"

(To be continued)

Holly Maholm is a transgender woman living in Cleveland, Ohio. Look for Holly's book Offered Magic: My Life Among the Unicorns (now available on Amazon) which collects the first 126 episodes of Holly's adventures involving both magical unicorns and her LGBTQ friends. Send a message to Holly at ***www.hollymaholm.com.***

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GRAB REBECCA

"Some Questions" for her: An interview with Rebecca Makkai

By Gregg Shapiro

Beginning with her first book, 2011's "The Borrower" and continuing with her 2015 short story collection "Music For Wartime," novelist and straight ally Rebecca Makkai has created some of the most unforgettable queer characters in contemporary fiction. This inclusion reached a crescendo with 2018's award-winning and acclaimed novel "The Great Believers," about a group of gay friends in 1985 Chicago as AIDS was beginning to make its impact felt on the city. In Makkai's new novel. "I Have Some Questions For You" (Viking, 2023), she not only features characters that are lesbian and non-binary, she manages to perfectly illustrate the present mood with podcasts and COVID figuring prominently in the story. Makkai was gracious enough to answer a few questions before the February 2023 publication of the novel.

Gregg Shapiro: Rebecca, the last time I interviewed you was in 2018 right before your award-winning third novel "The Great Believers" was published. Were you prepared for the reception that the book received?

Rebecca Makkai: I was certainly surprised, and absolutely thrilled. I'm honestly glad that it all happened with my fourth book, rather than my first; I enjoyed and appreciated it more, and I understand how much luck has to do with it.

GS: Your new novel, "I Have Some Questions For You," has been appearing on a number of "Most Anticipated Books of 2023" lists. What does that mean to you?

RM: There are really two places that comes from. Some of those lists are just about the buzz, and about the audience an author already has; and some lists are made by people who've already read early copies of those books. Both types of lists mean a ton to me, and I'm so grateful to know people are waiting for the book. It definitely makes for a more fun book tour, not having to worry as much about showing up to an empty bookstore.

Photo by Brett Simison

GS: The title of the book comes from chapter 26. Which came first – the title or the chapter? If it was the chapter, how did you know that it was the right title for the novel?

RM: We (my editor and agent and I) searched _forever_ for a title. The book's working title was "Ninety-Five," which I liked – but it didn't do much to telegraph the novel's tone or content. I found the title late in the editing process, so the chapter title definitely existed first. I like how, as a novel title, it signals the complications and uncertainty at the heart of the narration.

GS: Did you have a particular boarding school in mind when you created the boarding school Granby, the main setting of "I Have Some Questions For You" or is it more of a composite?

RM: Neither; it's completely made up. I did make a lot of maps, which was fun.

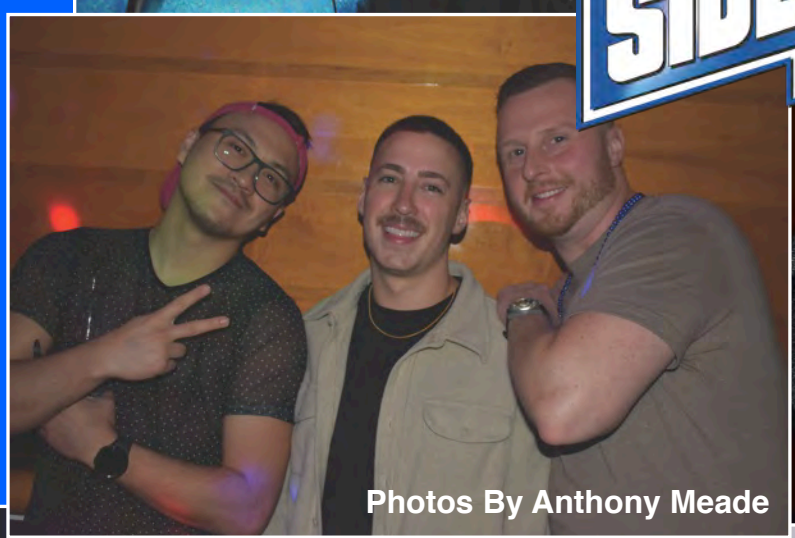
GS: Throughout the book, there is this kind of mantra of victims and their fates. Were these written all at once or organically as you wrote the novel?

RM: These litanies came about because I wanted there to be some major news story going on, something that really triggered Bodie, but I neither wanted it to be a real story nor one I made up for the book. At a certain point I just said, "Fuck it, it's all of them at once." Because that's so often what it feels like. I did not write those parts all together; they found their way in as the novel needed them.

GS: "I Have Some Questions For You" is separated into two parts. Did you always know the second part would involve the retrial?

RM: That was originally my plan for the whole book! The very first thing I wrote was Bodie showing up at the hotel in New Hampshire, ready to testify. The problem was I'd have had to include an enormous amount of backstory – not only what happened in the '90s, but everything that led to the hearing for retrial as well. I thought I should back up and give 50 pages or so to the events of

SIDETRACK



Photos By Anthony Meade

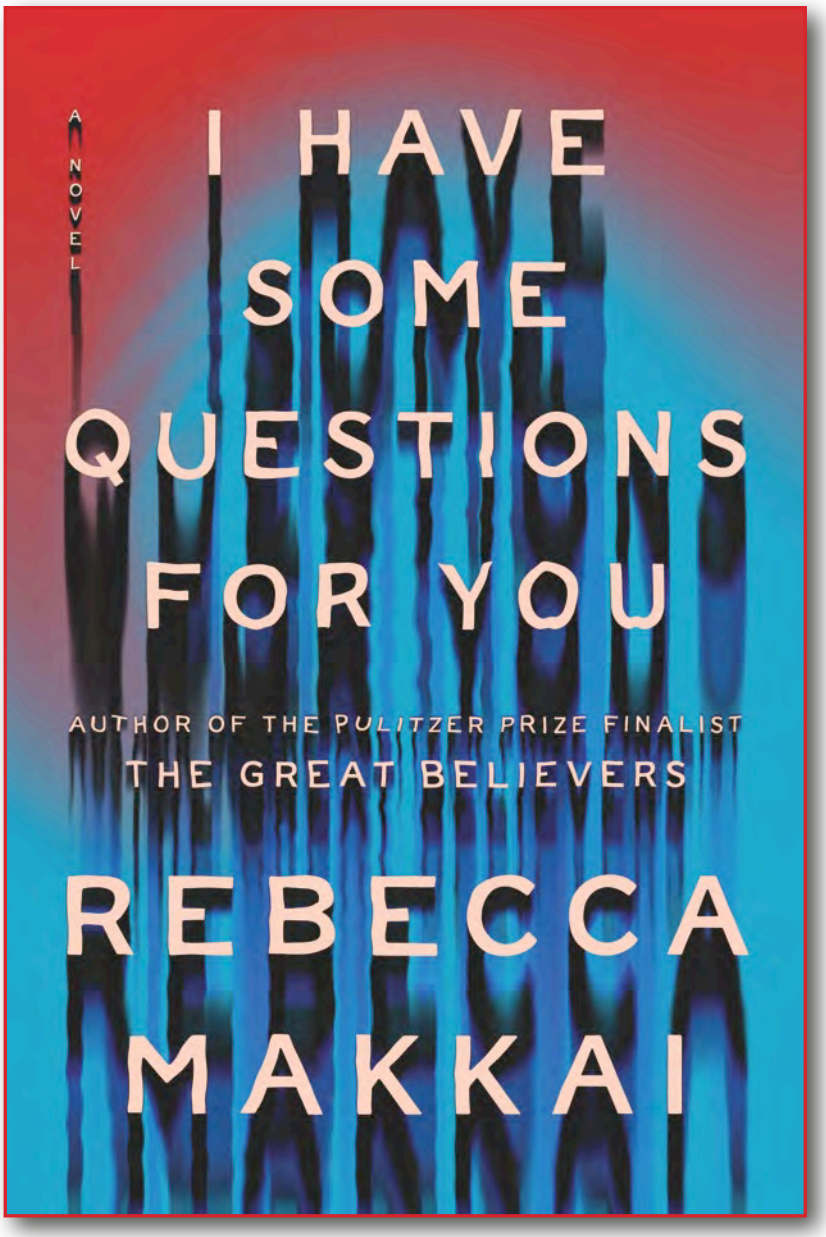
a couple years earlier – but then those events ended up being the bulk of the book.

GS: In the second part of the book, COVID and the war in Ukraine make appearances, giving the book a certain immediacy and timeliness.
RM: It was important to me that this story happened some specific number of years after high school for the characters, not at a vague and unstated distance. That means I'm writing about a real time, and that means global events are going to be part of the story. The COVID thing was endlessly frustrating! I was finishing copy edits in late 2021 and then in early 2022, which is when the last section was set, and first I had to put face masks on everyone and change out sentences like "he smiled"; then I assumed the masks would be a thing of the past, so I took them all off; then I put them back on; then New Hampshire lifted its mask mandate, so I took some of them out. It was needlessly exhausting.

GS: Bodie, the narrator, is a podcaster. Do you have a favorite podcast to which you listen regularly?
RM: So many, but my current favorite is "If Books Could Kill," from Michael Hobbes and Peter Shamshiri. It's a takedown of popular nonfiction books that get things terribly wrong.

GS: In addition to being a podcaster, Bodie teaches film studies. With that in mind, if there was a movie version of "I Have Some Questions For You," who would you like to see playing Bodie, Fran, Thalia, Britt, Alder, Jerome, and Geoff?
RM: The thing is, I'm absolutely terrible at actors [laughs]. I never recognize anyone. I'd love Lizzie Caplan as Bodie, though. She's so amazing in "Fleishman is in Trouble," and I love that we all have in our heads exactly what she looked like as a teenager. Paul Rudd is a little too old to play Geoff, but then he doesn't look his age, so maybe we're good.

GS: As you've done in the past, you have incorporated queer characters into "I Have Some Questions For You," including lesbian couple Fran and Anne, and non-binary student Lola, which is sure to make your LGBTQ+ readers very happy. Can you please say something about the inclusion of LGBTQ+ characters in your work?
RM: I mean, it would be weird to have a fully populated novel and not include LGBTQ characters. When we look back on high school, it's interesting to think not only about who we were, but who we were pretending to be. Like Bodie, I graduated high school in 1995, and there were only one or two kids in the whole school who were out. I've imagined things the same way at Granby, where Fran had to disguise herself more than most other students just to get by.

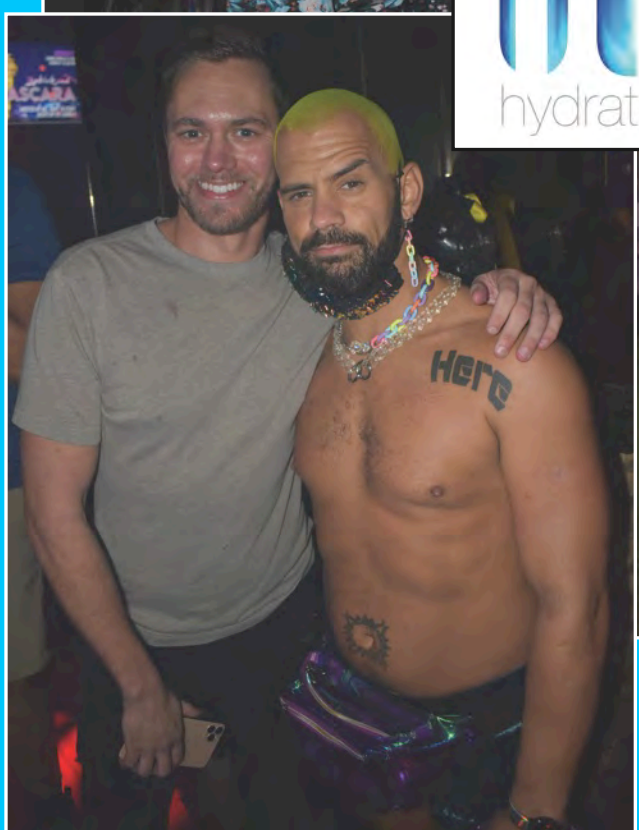


GS: Finally, have you started to think about your next book project?
RM: Yep! I'm keeping quiet about it for now, though. Right now, I'm researching, but hopefully, by the time I'm on tour, I'll be writing on the airplane.

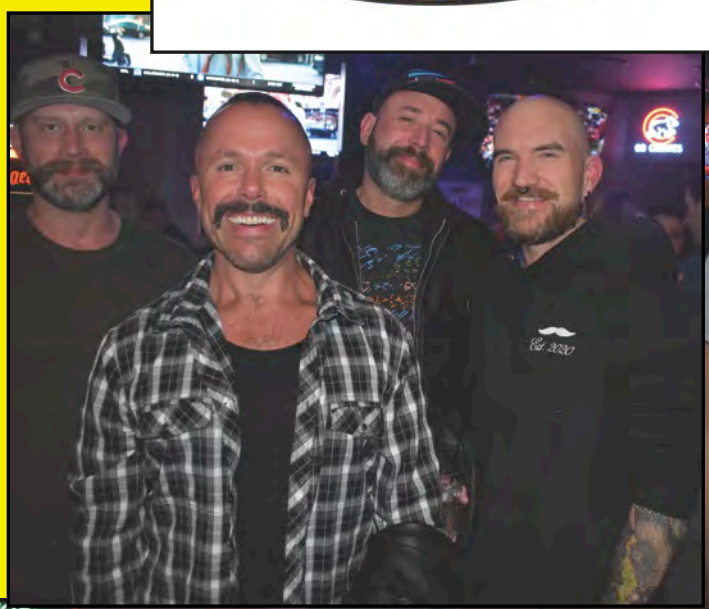
On March 21, Rebecca will be at The Book Stall 811Elm Street in Winnetka.

Photos By Anthony Meade

hydrate



THE NorthEnd
EST. 1983



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GRAB A FILM

By Delven Shaw

AFTERSUN

Years from now, we may ask each other, 'when was the first time you noticed ***Paul Mascal***? He has been working steadily on stage and screen. Describing his performance as Stanley in *A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE* on London's West End, the New York Timers says," Mescal brings both swagger and sensitivity to the role, in the process stepping out of the long shadow cast over this part by its stage and screen originator, Marlon Brando." With his Oscar Nominated performance in the beguiling and thought-provoking *AFTERSUN*, I hope Mescal gets to throw many long shadows on stage and screen for decades to come.

Writer/Director ***Charlotte Wells*** designs much of the credit for creating a specific world in AfterSun, as Sophie (***Frankie Corio***) celebrates her 11th birthday in the company of her father Calum (Mescal). On this holiday in Turkey, it is clear he should never have been a father, but his mystery and magnetism are laid out layer by layer by Mescal and Wells. The film asks more questions than it answers, but I like that in a movie. Much is left to the interpretation of the viewer.

Corio and Mescal are terrific together, and the actors assembled by Wells create a timeless magical resort that is grounded in so many memories of water in all its magnificent forms.

Sophies first kiss. Calum's restlessness. The fear of poverty, the fear of never being enough. All these themes are woven into fascinating scenes which are suspenseful, surprising, and satisfying.

By the time the vacation is over, and we fast forward to the future, we have a better sense of the men and women who are parents and children and the same time.

CLOSE

The contrasts in Close, written by ***Lukas Dhont*** and ***Angelo Tissens*** and directed by Dhont, are stunning. Boys run a full speed through the magical fields of a flower farm, coupled with later shots of how difficult life on the farm is. A yard full of young students is at play, followed by one joke, hint, and betrayal. Contrasts between mothers raising sons and fathers facing complex futures. And most important of all, two boys whose manhood and boyhood are on a collision course full of boundless joy and sorrow.

Léo (***Eden Dambrine***) and Remi (***Gustav De Waele***) have been friends since birth and have grown up tussling in the trees, sharing each other's families, and falling exhausted into bed where a chaste peace reigns. But when they start a new school, that special relationship draws attention. And one does not need a hockey stick to bash a young mind.

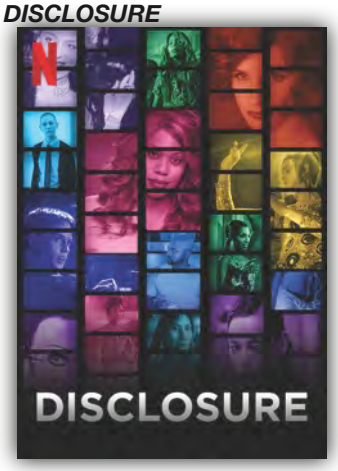
The two leads are perfectly cast, and the seasoned actors supporting them are terrific. Not a word, not a gesture, is wasted. The tension is razor pitched.

Frank van den Eeden's Cinematography throws us into the center of the hockey scrum and sends us racing on bikes through the fields and woods. Frenetic movement balances with extended portraits of stillness as two boys sleep in the moonlight. ***Valentin Hadjadj***'s score is elegant and spare.

Close premiered at the Cannes *Film Festival* on 26 May 2022 to critical acclaim and won the *Grand Prix*. *Diaphana Distribution* released the film in France on 1 November 2022 and by *Lumière in Benelux* on 2 November. On 24 January 2023, the film was nominated for the Academy Award for Best International Feature Film at the 95th Academy Awards.[4] It also won the André Cavens Award for Best Film by the Belgian Film Critics Association.[5]

CLOSE should join the ranks of other classic films about boys who struggle with intimacy and rejection. I highly recommend it.

DISCLOSURE



Sometimes documentaries reach from a distance, and you are left informed but still outside.

DISCLOSURE, now on Netflix, embraces you with pain, and it explores the devastating effects of pop culture through the years on trans performers today. You may already know that words wound and cleve, that images sear and stay.

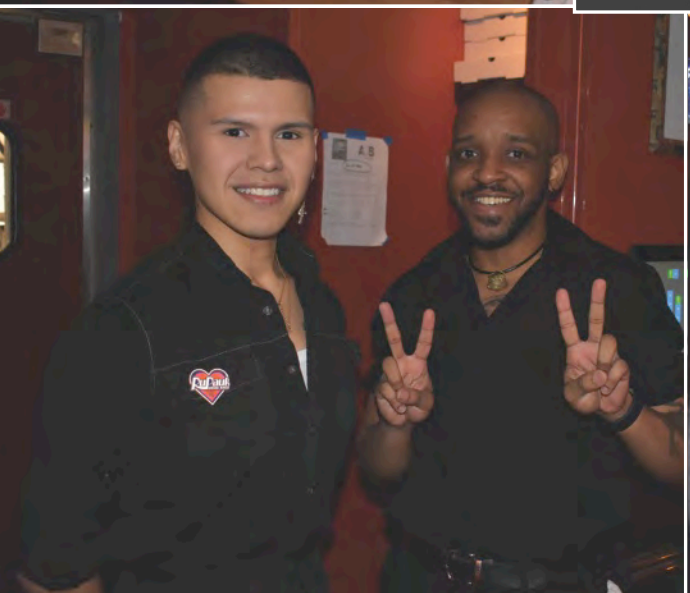
By taking the audience back to the earliest days of film, we get to react to skits ***by Flip Wilso***n and many others men dressed as women for humor or tragic purposes. Once you see the film, you will look at these clips - and hundreds of others like them - and won't laugh because director Sam Feder shows us how much that laughter cost.

Many famous transgender people in the film industry, such as, ***Laverne Cox, Susan Stryker, Alexandra Billings, Jamie Clayton, Chaz Bono, Alexandra Grey, Yance Ford, Trace Lysette, Jazzmun, Michaela Jaé Rodriguez, Angelica Ross, Jen Richards, Elliot Fletcher, Brian Michael Smith, Sandra Caldwell, Candis Cayne, Jessica Crockett, Zackary Drucker, Lilly Wachowski, Ser Anzoategui, Michael D. Cohen, Zeke Smith***, and ***Leo Sheng***. Some you will know; some you SHOULD know. All have stories to tell, and the material is assembled in an excellent and seamless series of chapters.

There are a lot of queer culture available screening right now. Check out the two-minute reviews at DelvenShaw.com

PhotosBy Anthony Meade

Lark



MUSIC THEATER WORKS ANNOUNCES CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM FOR THE TONY AWARD-WINNING AVENUE Q MARCH 9 - APRIL 2 AT THE NORTH SHORE CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

Music Theater Works announces the cast and creative team for the first production in its 43rd season, Avenue Q in the North Theatre at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts In Skokie, 9501 Skokie Blvd, Skokie, March 9 - April 2.

The Tony Award-winning musical comedy with book by ***Jeff Whitty***, music and lyrics by ***Robert Lopez*** and ***Jeff Marx***, based on an original concept by *Robert Lopez* and *Jeff Marx* and is directed and choreographed by ***Christopher Pazdernik***, assistant directed by ***Ashley Keys*** and music directed by ***Eugene Dizon***.

Join the irreverent denizens of Avenue Q - part flesh, part plushy, people, puppets and allfun. Hilarious, charming and a little profane, Avenue Q will turn your expectation of acceptable discourse on its head. Follow our hero Princeton, fresh out of college, to his shabby New York apartment all the way out on Avenue Q which, it soon becomes clear, isnot your ordinary neighborhood. Laugh out loud, funny, toe-tappingly singable and full ofwarmth and humor, Avenue Q won the Tony for Best Musical, Best Score and Best Book.

Tickets are now on sale at ***MusicTheaterWorks.com*** or by calling the Music Theater Works box office at the North Shore Center, ***847.673.6300.***

"CELEBRATING MEAT LOAF", FEATURING MEMBERS OF HIS OWN BAND, WILL PAY TRIBUTE TO THE THEATRICS AND PASION OF MEAT LOAF ON MARCH 18TH AT THE GENESEE THEATRE!

"Celebrating Meat Loaf", featuring members of his own band, will pay tribute to the theatrics and passion of Meat Loaf on March 18th at The Genesee!

Paul CrookAUL CROOK has been touring with Meat Loaf since 2003. CALEB JOHNSON won American Idol in 2014 and carries the soul of Meat Loaf every time he performs, having joined in 2021.

The group will be performing *"Bat Out of Hell"* in its entirety and more! Brian May, guitarist of Queen, even endorsed the tour himself on January 28th saying,"DO NOT MISS THIS"!

Tickets are available in-person at The Genesee Theatre box office 203 N GENESEE ST Waukegan, IL . Or online at ***www.GeneseeTheatre.com.***

WINDY CITY GAY CHORUS ANDWINDY CITY TREBLE QUIRE PRESENT *Our Common Thread:Songs of Love, Loss, and Life SATURDAY MARCH 25*

WINDY CITY GAY CHORUS
WINDY CITY TREBLE QUIRE
OUR COMMON THREAD
Songs of Love, Loss, and Life
Saturday, March 25, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

The Windy City Gay Chorus and Windy City Treble Quire have announcedtheir upcoming 2023 spring concert, Our Common Thread: Songs of Love, Loss and Life, underthe direction of ***Dr. Eric Esparza,*** Interim Conductor.

Our Common Thread is a musical experience featuring songs composed by ***Stephen Schwartz,Lin-Manuel Miranda***, Mozart, ***Brandi Carlisle*** and so many others. Through this exploration ofsongs, we are reminded of those we love, those we've lost, life itself, and how our communityhas been sewn together as if we were a quilt.

For tickets or more information visit ***windycitysings.org.*** or Phone their box office at ***773.325.5200***

CAMP SONGS PRODUCTIONS ANNOUNCE CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM FORHOUSE MUSICAL - COMING OF AGE IN THE AGE OF HOUSE APRIL 20th-30th IN THE CENTER ON HALSTED'S HOOVER- LEPPEN THEATER

HOUSE MUSICAL
SIDE A
33.3 RPM
COMING OF AGE
IN THE AGE OF HOUSE
BOOK BY MARCUS WALLER
MUSIC BY SCOTT FREE WITH MICHAEL FOLEY
LYRICS BY SCOTT FREE & MARCUS WALLER

Campsongs Productions returns with the world premiere of House Musical - Coming of Age in the Age of House, with book by Marcus Waller, music by Scott Free (with Michael Foley) and lyrics by Scott Free and Marcus Waller.

House Musical - Coming Of Age In The Age Of House tells the story of Dwayne (Dion McNeal) who finds the strength to come out of the closet by sneaking into the Warehouse club, where House Music was born. House Musical is a celebration of both the BIPOC LGBTQ+ experience in Chicago, and the explosion of a new musical genre called House Music. It captures the beginnings of the emerging black LGBT community of Chicago, which brought people together through the shared personal struggles: standing up to bullying and homophobia, fighting discrimination within the greater LGBT community, and the bravery of battling HIV/AIDS when there were no treatments. Most of all, House Musical is story of love and acceptance, of hope, bravery, and pride.

The cast includes ***Nehmiah Barker, Marcellus Burt, Reginald Hemphill, Edvetté Jones, Dion McNeal, Kenny Miller, Roman Mitchell, Chandler Paskett, Anthony Powell, Jessica Vann***, and ***Camille Wiggins***.

The production team includes ***Dion Walton*** (Director), ***Scott Free*** (Musical Director),***J'SunHoward*** (Choreographe r), ***Maurice Costello*** (Scenic Designer), ***Doug Herlihy*** (Lighting Designer), and ***Brian Kirst*** (Dramaturg).

Tickets go on sale March 6th at ***centeronhalsted.org.*** For more information, visit ***www.housemusical.house***

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